

IMPORT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF COSTA RICA FOR DOGS AND CATS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The dogs or cats must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian, and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. Additional information shall include:

CERTIFICATION OF STATEMENTS

1. The dog/cat was examined and found to be healthy and free of any clinical signs of infectious disease. Note: In general this examination should be conducted within 2 weeks of the departure date.
2. The animals were vaccinated against rabies.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

1. See certification statement No. 2.
2. Animals over 4 months old must be vaccinated against rabies.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. It is recommended that a Federal APHIS FORM 7001, U.S. Interstate and International Certificate for Small Animals be used.
2. The accompanying health certificate should be made out at least in duplicate.
3. The health certificate does NOT need to be signed by a Notary Public, nor does it need to be stamped by the Costa Rican Consular office.
4. The rabies vaccination certificate should accompany the health documents.
5. An import permit is required for dogs and cats when transported as cargo and unaccompanied by the owner.

An import permit is not required for dogs and cats when transported in the cabin or as checked baggage and accompanied by the owner on the same flight. The owner must be able to demonstrate the pet arrived on their same flight as checked baggage.

An import permit is required when pets are transported as cargo, when the dog or cat was unable to make the connecting flight, e.g. did not arrive on the same flight as the owner.